

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

A Newsletter from the Office of L&I Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth

June 2023

Question of the Month: Interrupting rating is the highest current at a rated voltage that a device is identified to interrupt under standard test conditions. Per the NEC, if a circuit breaker is not marked with an interrupting rating, what is the interrupting rating of that breaker?

Find the answer on page 2.

Exception to 2020 NEC 230.46 Listing Requirements Splices and Taps for Service Conductors

Until April 1, 2024, pressure connectors and devices for splices and taps are not required to be marked "suitable for use on the line side of service equipment". This allowance is to assist manufactures to meet the demand. More information to come in future editions of this newsletter.

New (01) Electrical Apprenticeship Laws Take Effect July 1

New laws taking effect July 1 change how candidates qualify for the (01) journey level exam. L&I updated webpages, created a fact sheet, and recently sent out postcards to more than 3,000 (01) contractors and 24,000 trainees to help make the changes easier to understand.

All of the items feature what trainees and employers need to know about the new laws. For trainees, there's information about what is required to perform (01) journey level work, apply to an apprenticeship program, and qualify for the (01) exam. For contractors, there is focus on who can perform (01) work and how to get involved with registered apprenticeship programs.

Learn more: [Changes in becoming a journey level \(01\) electrician](#) (F500-151-000).

www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship Questions? Email ElectricalApprenticeship@Lni.wa.gov.

How do I Prove My 3000 Hours of Experience?

ESSB 5320 created an allowance for trainees with 3,000 hours of electrical experience to continue accruing (01) hours without joining a registered apprenticeship. When an inspector finds a trainee performing electrical installations limited to (01) electricians they will :

- ask the trainee for proof of being in a registered apprenticeship program, or
- verify their hours in L&I's data base.

If there is no record of the hours, the inspector will require the trainee's employer to verify the needed hours. When the trainee turns in their next affidavit, the Electrical Licensing team at L&I will confirm the trainee had the needed hours to be performing (01) electrical installations. If the trainee did not have the needed experience they will lose those (01) hours and both the trainee and employer would subject to citations and monetary fines.

The simplest way to avoid this is to turn in [affidavits of experience](#) and have your hours on record. Anyone can check hours of a trainee by using our [Verify](#) tool. You can search by trainee name or certificate number.

Safety Tip of the Month

☒ School's out for summer ☒

Pay attention! Put the phone down and be alert for children, pedestrians, skateboarders, and cyclists. Summer brings many new safety concerns for drivers and pedestrians.

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Rule Update – Expedited Rulemaking to Enact ESSB 5320

ESSB 5320 amends apprenticeship requirements brought on by 2018's SSB 6126. Parts of rules just adopted to implement SSB 6126 conflict with allowances made by ESSB 5320.

To avoid having rules that conflict with laws, we filed a CR-105 expedited rule on April 19, 2023 to amend rules so they align with allowances made by ESSB 5320. The new rules are tentatively scheduled to take effect July 3, 2023. To learn more, visit our "[Rule Development](#)" page.

Rule Update – Code Adoption - TAC Members

Thank you to everyone who submitted a WAC proposal and applied to the TAC. We still have a few positions to fill and are still accept applications to the TAC until June 10th. We have openings for:

- (01) electricians and contractors
- (06A) electricians and contractors
- Testing lab
- Utility representative

We will inform members of the TAC the week of June 12th. The TAC meeting is the second week of July in Tumwater.

New Affidavit Forms

We recently updated our affidavit of experience forms to make them simpler to use. Instead of a complicated one size fits all form, there are now two:

[Affidavit of Experience for Washington Registered Electrical Apprentices](#) (F500-152-000). Use this form to claim hours worked as a registered apprentice in an approved Washington apprenticeship program.

[Affidavit of Experience for Washington Electrical Trainees](#) (F500-149-000). Use this form to claim hours worked as a Washington trainee while not registered in Washington electrical apprenticeship program. From the expiration date your training certificate; you have 180 days to turn in affidavits for the previous 2 years. Affidavits received by L&I after the deadline are not approvable. For receipt of delivery, use certified mail. Affidavits are date stamped upon receipt at L&I.

For fastest processing: Mail affidavits as instructed on the form so they can be scanned directly to the worklist for processing by our imaging department. Please do not send any by email or fax.

Answer to the Question of the Month:

5,000 amperes - NEC 240.83 (C) Every circuit breaker having an interrupting rating other than 5,000 amperes shall have its interrupting rating shown on the circuit breaker. Note: If the marked interrupting rating of the breaker exceeds the marked short circuit rating of the end-use equipment, such as a panelboard in which the breaker is installed, the interrupting rating of the overall combination is still considered to be the lesser rating marked on the end-use equipment.

Picture of the Month: The hazard is real in this picture. NEC 240.24(E) prohibits overcurrent devices to be installed in bathrooms of dwellings. At least the shower head was installed so it sprayed away from the electrical panel.

Click on the picture for a larger image.



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